



The HAL Hotline

Department of History, Arts and Libraries • Fall 2003 • Volume II • Issue III

HAL Celebrates Family History Month in October

Recognizing the importance of genealogy in preserving our sense of heritage, the Department of History, Arts and Libraries (HAL) will once again celebrate Family History Month in October. The department, which coordinated Michigan's first Family History Month in 2002 in an effort to encourage genealogy research and education, has expanded the celebration this year, offering a series of more than 20 free workshops and training sessions.

The Library of Michigan, the State Archives of Michigan, the State Historic Preservation Office, the Office of the State Archaeologist and the Michigan Historical Museum will all present sessions during this month-long event. The workshops were developed to meet the information needs of both beginning and experienced researchers, with topics ranging from how to get started researching your family's history to using the latest electronic resources on the Internet to tracing your Civil War ancestors.

The Library of Michigan, the State Archives and the Michigan Historical Museum will also remain open until 8 p.m. on Wednesday evenings in October to make it even easier for interested researchers to visit and take advantage of the numerous resources available.

"Family History Month is a chance for the us to give something back to the genealogical community that has been so supportive of us and our programs throughout the years," explained Randy

Riley, special collections manager for the Library of Michigan.

The Library of Michigan maintains one of the ten largest genealogical collections in the country, with over 100,000 books, microforms, and electronic resources providing a wide array of materials to those searching for their ancestry. The collection includes the entire set of federal census records for the United States and Canada, historic city directories, maps and atlases, county and family histories, ships' passenger records, vital records indices and a large selection of genealogy periodicals.

The State Archives of Michigan, part of the Michigan Historical Center, is the official depository of the state's records and maintains and preserves unique materials dating from the pre-statehood territorial era to the present day. Its holdings, numbering over one hundred million items, include many materials with genealogical value - local government records such as naturalization records, tax rolls, probate and circuit court records and state government records such as land, military and various institutional records.

Most Family History Month sessions are free, and all will take place at the Michigan Library and Historical Center at 702 West Kalamazoo Street in Lansing. Seating is limited, so pre-registration is recommended for all events. Registration for all sessions is available by phone at (517) 373-1300 and by

email at familyhistory@michigan.gov.

If you have questions concerning any of the Family History Month events, please contact the Library of Michigan's Special Collection Services at (517) 373-1300 or visit michigan.gov/hal

Family History Month Activities begin on page 2.

Touring Arts and Humanities Showcase Comes to Brighton Sept. 20

Enjoy a rare opportunity to see a talented ensemble of Michigan's best actors, actresses, dancers, musicians, storytellers, tradition bearers, visual artists and others, as they converge on the Brighton Center for the Performing Arts to perform, demonstrate and talk about their work.

The Touring Arts and Humanities Showcase held just once every three years, takes place from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 20, at the Brighton Center for the Performing Arts. Registration is \$35/person and includes performances, continental breakfast and lunch. For more information, visit

www.michiganhumanities.org/touring.

Family History

Wed., Oct. 1

Beginning Your Genealogy Research

3-4 p.m., Lake Ontario Room

Library of Michigan staff will offer a short class instructing people how to get started with their genealogical research.

Sat., Oct. 4

Genealogy and the Internet

9:30-11 a.m., Forum

(Abrams Session) FEE=\$10.00

The latest resources and research strategies for genealogists interested in more effectively using the Internet will be discussed.

Genealogy Appreciation Day Activities

1-3 p.m., Forum

Join the Library of Michigan in recognizing the support of the genealogical community.

Beginning Your Genealogy Research

3:30-4:30 p.m., Lake Ontario Room

(See Wed. Oct. 1 session description)

Sun., Oct. 5

Civil War Sunday

1-5 p.m., Michigan Library and Historical Center

This day is dedicated to researchers interested in tracing Civil War ancestors. Come visit a Civil War camp, interact with Civil War re-enactors or participate in formal presentations discussing "Michigan and the Civil War," "Women in the Civil War," "Researching Your Civil War Ancestors at the Michigan Library and Historical Center" and "The Lost Chapter of Black Civil War History." All formal sessions will be held in the Forum.

Tues., Oct. 7

Using Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps

3-4 p.m., Lake Ontario Room

Discover how useful Sanborn Fire Insurance maps can be when doing genealogical research. This session will introduce researchers to the various kinds of information located on the maps.

Wed., Oct. 8

How to Organize Your Genealogy Research

3-4 p.m., Lake Ontario Room

Half the challenge with doing family history is getting organized. Take part in a session that will offer tips for better organizing your research findings.

Using AncestryPlus

6:30-7:30 p.m., Training Center

Learn how to more efficiently and effectively use AncestryPlus. The session will inform researchers how to access the database from home and provide basic research strategies.

Thurs., Oct. 9

Military Records at the State Archives

3-4 p.m., Lake Huron Room

This session will provide an overview of the various military records housed at the State Archives, including materials from the Toledo War through World War I.

Sat., Oct. 11

Archaeology Day

11 a.m.-3 p.m., Forum

A series of sessions focusing on archeology and Michigan history will be offered. Session topics include: "History For Archaeology's Sake," "From King's List to Country Cemetery: An Archeologist Does Genealogy" and "Basic Units: A Selection of Prehistoric Tool Caches From Michigan." For more details visit www.michiganhistory.org and go to the Office of the State Archaeologist.

Ellis Island Resources

9:30-10:30 a.m., Training Center

Did your family come through Ellis Island? Find out what traditional and electronic resources are available for finding immigrants that traveled through Ellis Island.

Beginning Your Genealogy Research for Patrons Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired

11 a.m.-12 p.m., SBPH

Learn how the Services for Blind and Physically Handicapped may be able to help you get started with your family history. This session will focus on the challenges visually impaired patrons face when doing genealogical research.

Using Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps

3-4 p.m., Lake Ontario Room

(See Oct. 7 session description)

Sun., Oct. 12

Gene Sprouts: Family History for Kids

2-4 p.m., Lake Ontario Room

This session is structured to help children get started working on their family history. Getting-started exercises and hands-on experience are emphasized.

Month Activities

Tues., Oct. 14

Finding Michigan Land Owner Maps

3-4 p.m., Lake Ontario Room

Discover how to use the Library's land ownership maps when doing genealogical research.

Wed., Oct. 15

Michigan Newspaper Resources

3-4 p.m., Lake Ontario Room

Find out more about how to access the over 3,000 newspaper titles at the Library of Michigan. Obituaries and birth, death and marriage announcements may hold the key to uncovering your ancestors.

Preservation Workshop

4:30-6 p.m., Lake Huron Room

Have you ever wondered how to preserve a family treasure? This session will discuss many practical means of preserving objects, papers and photographs.

How to Document Your Centennial Farm

6:30-7:30 p.m., Lake Huron Room

This session, presented by the State Historic Preservation Office, will provide instruction on techniques for researching the histories of farm properties for the purpose of applying for Centennial Farm designation. It will discuss sources of information as well as the specific requirements involved.

Sat., Oct. 18

Michigan Genealogy Council Seminar: multi-track sessions presented by notable genealogists and HAL staff

9 a.m.-5 p.m.,

Michigan Library and Historical Center

Participate in a free daylong seminar. Select the sessions that are most relevant to your family history. Box lunches are \$6, and handout packets are \$4. Send registrations and lunch and handout packet checks to:

Michigan Genealogical Council

P.O. Box 80953

Lansing, MI 48909-0953

HAL Presentations:

- 1) *Organizing Genealogy Materials (Library of Michigan)*
- 2) *Using the 1930 Census (Library of Michigan)*
- 3) *First Michigan Land Transactions (Library of Michigan)*
- 4) *Genealogy of a Building (State Historic Preservation Office)*

5) *How to Document Your Centennial Farm*

(State Historic Preservation Office)

6) *Military Records at the State Archives*

(State Archives)

7) *Five other presentations by genealogists*

Tues., Oct. 21

Michigan Newspaper Resources

10-11 a.m., Lake Ontario Room

(See Oct. 15 session description)

Finding Land Ownership and Survey Records at the State Archives

3-4 p.m., Lake Huron Room

This session will provide a new look at the many land records at the State Archives, including the state's original survey notes and maps, original landowners and the 1930 WPA rural property inventory.

Wed., Oct. 22

Finding Michigan Land Owners Maps

10-11 a.m., Lake Ontario Room

(See Oct. 14 session description)

Using AncestryPlus

3-4 p.m., Training Center

(See Oct. 8 session description)

Genealogy of Your Building

6-7:30 p.m., Lake Huron Room

This session, presented by the State Historic Preservation Office, will provide information on techniques for researching the history of historic properties, such as houses and schools. It will discuss information sources, the types of information to be obtained from them and evaluating the reliability of information garnered from these sources.

Sat., Oct. 25

Michigan Oral History Association Conference

9 a.m.-5 p.m., Lake Ontario Room

The Michigan Oral History Association's conference will include several workshops of value to family historians. For more details, registration information and fee structure, contact Geneva Kebler Wiskemann at (517) 321-1746 or gwiskemann@arq.net.

Using Census Indexes and the Soundex

9:30-10:30 a.m., Lake Ontario Room

Learn how to take full advantage of the Library's complete holding of federal and Canadian census records.

Gene Sprouts: Family History for Kids
2-4 p.m., Lake Huron Room
(See Oct. 12 session description)

Tues., Oct. 28

Ellis Island Resources
10-11 a.m., Training Center
(See Oct. 11 session description)

Wed., Oct. 29

Using Census Indexes and the Soundex
3-4 p.m., Lake Ontario Room

(See Oct 25 session description)

Immigrants After Ellis Island
5:30-6:30 p.m., Lake Huron Room

Thanksgiving Eve, 1901: Two steam locomotives raced toward a head-on collision between the tiny villages of Seneca and Sand Creek, Michigan. In one of the worst railway disasters in the state's history, dozens of passengers, mostly of Italian descent, died in the flames following the crash. This session, presented by Michigan Historical Museum staff, will explore how genealogy research methods were used to trace the lives of wreck victims from their native Italy to Michigan.

Registration for all sessions is available by phone at (517) 373-1300 or 1-877-479-0021 (toll free) and by email at familyhistory@michigan.gov. Seating is limited, so pre-registration is recommended for all Family History Month events. If you have questions concerning any of the Family History Month events, contact the Library of Michigan's Special Collection Services at (517) 373-1300 or 1-877-479-0021 (toll free).

HAL Calendar of Events September-November

Hometown Hoops Exhibit

Michigan Historical Museum

Now through Oct. 12

This special exhibit looks at what high-school basketball has meant to those who play, coach or cheer and what a team can mean to its community.

Learning More @ the Library of Michigan: Native American Resources

Saturday, Sept. 6, at 9:30 a.m. and Wednesday, Sept. 10 at 3 p.m.

Lake Huron Room, second floor, Library of Michigan

Learn where to find online and print resources that will help you research Native American ancestors. To register, call (517) 373-1300.

16th Michigan & 102nd Colored Infantry Civil War Re-enactors at Fort Mackinac

Saturday, Sept. 13, and Sunday, Sept. 14, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Fort Mackinac, Mackinac Island

The Island's Civil War connections come to life with uniformed 1860s re-enactors and hoop-skirted women and kids sharing their love of history. Planned activities include marching, a Stanton's Guard re-enactment, drills, skits, thousands of one-on-one lectures, a ladies' fashion show and a presentation of our outstanding and unique living history program, with lectures about the life of a soldier stationed at Fort Mackinac, the life of the black soldier in Michigan and the life of the civilians during 1862.

Learning More @ the Library of Michigan: Great Lakes Lighthouses

Saturday, Sept. 20, at 9:30 a.m. and Wednesday, Sept. 24, at 3 p.m.

Lake Huron Room, second floor, Library of Michigan

Learn about the many lighthouses of the Great Lakes and how to find lighthouse resources at the

Library of Michigan. To register, call (517) 373-1300.

Family History Month

Oct. 1-31, Michigan Library and Historical Center

The Department of History, Arts and Libraries offers more than 20 free workshops as part of its celebration of Family History Month. See the preceding pages for a schedule of events.

Hometown Hoops Second Saturday Series

Saturday, Oct. 11, from noon to 2 p.m.

Michigan Historical Museum

Join superfan Roger Houle as he shares his passion for high school sports – passion that began in 1958 – and his collection showcasing Michigan's high school sports heritage. Houle, a member of the 1962 Flint St. Matthews Class D state-champion basketball team, will meet visitors in the *Hometown Hoops* special exhibit gallery.

Learning More @ the Library of Michigan: Michigan Sports

Saturday, Nov. 8, at 9:30 a.m. and Wednesday, Nov. 12, at 3 p.m.

Lake Huron Room, second floor, Library of Michigan

This session will explore Michigan's sports heritage; its important figures, including Joe Louis, Magic Johnson and Gordie Howe; and how to locate Michigan sports resources at the Library of Michigan. To register, call (517) 373-1300.

2003 Veterans Tribute

Sunday, Nov. 9, at 2 p.m.

Michigan Historical Museum

You don't have to be a veteran to attend this annual event, just a person interested in the contributions made by American men and women in service to their country. The event, sponsored by the Friends of Michigan History and the Mid-Michigan Chapter of the Military Order of the World Wars, includes exhibits, activities and presentations for the whole family. Featured speaker Joseph Beyrle, a Muskegon native, will share his experiences as a World War II paratrooper, a German prisoner of war

and a soldier for the Russian army. Military, veteran, scout, civic and other groups are also invited to participate in the Massing of the Colors, the ceremonial presentation that opens our annual event. For more information or to RSVP for the Massing of the Colors, contact Chris Dancisak at (517) 373-1668 or dancisakc@michigan.gov.

Michigan Book Club

Thursday, Nov. 13, from noon to 1 p.m.

Lake Huron Room, second floor, Library of Michigan

The Library of Michigan hosts a series of book discussions focusing on titles from the library's Michigan collection. The featured book for November is *The Truth About Fire* by Elizabeth Hartmann. Attendees are invited to bring a lunch, and all participants are asked to pre-register. For more information or to register, contact Leelyn Johnson at (517) 373-1364 or ljohnson@michigan.gov.

Digging Up Controversy: The Michigan Relics

Nov. 15, 2003, through Aug. 15, 2004

Michigan Historical Museum

This special exhibit of the mysterious and controversial objects known as the Michigan Relics opens Nov. 15. Read more about the exhibit on the following page.

MCACA to Announce Arts and Cultural Grant Awards Sept. 12

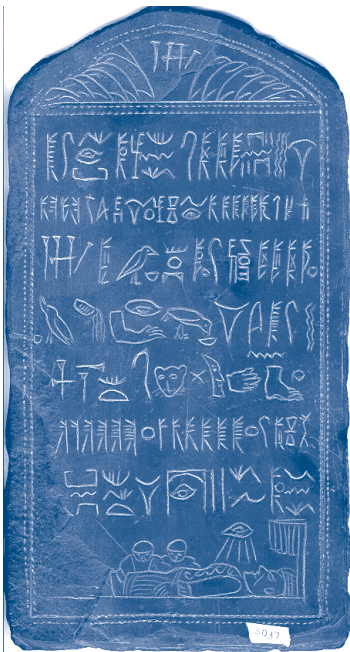
The Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs (MCACA) will announce fiscal year 2004 grant awards at its meeting at 1 p.m. on Friday, September 12. The meeting will take place at the Kellogg Center, located on the campus of Michigan State University.

Following the meeting, the list of grant awards will be posted on the HAL Web page at www.michigan.gov/hal.

All grant applications received by MCACA are evaluated through a process of peer review. Panels,

consisting of arts and cultural professionals from throughout the state, consider and judge each application based on published review criteria. This process culminates in recommendations for funding consideration to the Council. In determining grant awards, the Council considers panel recommendations,

geographic distribution, diversity, balance among funding programs, under-served communities, access and delivery of quality programming and services to citizens and communities.



This slate tablet is one of the "Michigan Relics," controversial objects excavated by a small group of individuals in various areas of Michigan in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Thought by some to be evidence of an intrusion by ancient Near Eastern peoples into Michigan, the overwhelming physical and historical evidence is that they were manufactured as part of the longest running archaeological hoax in American history.

Digging Up Controversy: The Michigan Relics

Between 1890 and 1920, central and southeast Michigan were the location of discoveries of clay, stone and copper artifacts. Known as the Michigan Relics, these artifacts bore

unknown writing and images akin to those of ancient Middle Eastern cultures. Were these discoveries evidence of a lost civilization in Michigan or were they products of an artful hoax?

Digging Up Controversy: The Michigan Relics exhibits these mysterious and controversial objects for the public to form its own opinion. The Michigan Historical Museum is pleased to present this rare display of the Michigan Relics, once called "the storm center of American archaeology." The exhibit, produced by the museum, appears in the first-floor Special Exhibits gallery from Nov. 15, 2003, through Aug. 15, 2004.

Visitors can follow the same reasoning used by professional archaeologists to analyze the Michigan

Relics. Find answers to questions like:

- How do they compare to items created by early inhabitants of Michigan?
- How do the Michigan Relics compare to archaeological finds in the Middle East?
- What questions did scholars raise about the Michigan Relics?

Explore the Michigan Relics from an archaeologist's point of view and gain further insight into the real detective work that goes into archaeology.

The Michigan Historical Museum is located in the Michigan Library and Historical Center at 702 W. Kalamazoo St. in Lansing. Visitors may also enjoy shopping for Michigan products at the Museum Store or relaxing in the spacious sitting area near the snack shop. The museum is open seven days a week, except for state holidays. Hours are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Sunday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Call (517) 373-3559 or TDD (800) 827-7007 for more information.

The Michigan Historical Museum is the flagship of an 11-museum system with sites located throughout the state. Explore the entire Michigan Historical Museum system online at www.michigan.gov/hal.

Discover Stories of Mackinac's Past in Two New MSHP Books!

Mackinac State Historic Parks (MSHP) recently published two books that take a historical look at life at Fort Mackinac and Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse.

A Desirable Station, Soldier Life at Fort Mackinac, 1867-1895 is the story of more than 1,000 soldiers from around the world who lived and loved, worked and played, won honors and served jail time, ate, slept and died at Fort Mackinac. This is the final chapter of one of America's great forts, which was built during the revolution, attacked during the War of 1812, strengthened to protect John Jacob Astor's fur business and given new life with the creation of Mackinac National Park in 1875.

The author, Phil Porter, has a life-long connection with Mackinac Island. Porter is currently acting director and chief curator for Mackinac State Historic Parks. He spent summers on the island in his youth and began his career as a soldier guide at the fort. He is the author of seven books published by MSHP.

“Mackinac Island and Fort Mackinac are important pieces of our nation’s culture,” noted Porter. “The fort and island evolved from places of great military and economic importance into world-famous travel destinations. During the time period covered in this book, our nation’s second national park was created on Mackinac Island. It was an exciting time for the soldiers stationed at Fort Mackinac, with light fatigue duties and many diversions offered by the growing resort community.”

In *A Castle at the Straits*, award-winning children’s author Janie Lynn Panagopoulos brings to life the past of Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse, which guided ships through the Straits of Mackinac from 1891 until 1957, and the importance of the families who lived and worked in it.

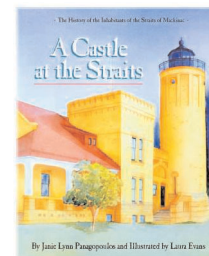
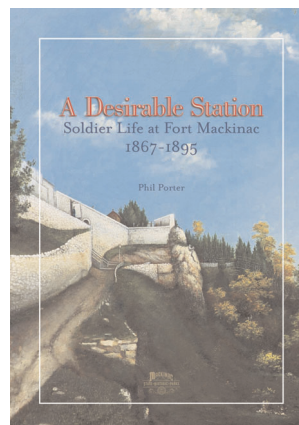
The book is based on the lives of the Marshall family, who lived at the lighthouse a century ago. With charming illustrations by Laura Evans, it is a story that will delight both children and adults.

In the early 1900s, young Chester Marshall and his sisters come to live with relatives at Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse. Chester learns he too will play a role in “keeping the light” and discovers how much the people of the Great lakes depend on his family’s dedication and hard work.

“Janie Lynn Panagopoulos and Laura Evans have created a charming, informative book that will serve as a keepsake for many families traveling to Mackinac,” said MSHP spokesman Timothy Putman. “We hope it will raise awareness and interest in our restoration efforts at Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse.”

Both books are available in bookstores and at all MSHP museum stores. They also can be ordered by calling (231) 436-4100 or by printing an order form at www.MackinacParks.com.

MSHP has a long tradition of writing for publication, with over 60 titles on its reading list. Publishing is one avenue MSHP takes to fulfill its mission of presenting the historic and natural resources of Mackinac to the public.



State Archives Preserves Meeting Records

The State Archives of Michigan is responsible for the permanent preservation of records documenting the history of Michigan’s government, and the meeting records of various boards and commissions can be a rich source of information about major issues and initiatives that government agencies address. The types of records that the State Archives hopes to preserve include official minutes, agenda packets, annual reports and photographs of members and special events.

Currently, the State Archives is conducting a project to ensure that we are preserving comprehensive documentation from every state board and commission. We are sending letters to each of them requesting the transfer of all meeting records more than five years old. This retention period complies with the requirements of General Retention Schedule #5 for “Administrative Records” (available online at http://www.michigan.gov/documents/GS5_Approved_3_20_01_20751_7.pdf).

The records preserved by the State Archives are accessible to government agencies and the public. They may be useful to agencies that are reviewing past decisions or preparing to commemorate an anniversary or event. Information about transferring and accessing records, as well as the State Archives’ other services, is available online at www.michigan.gov.

Our Mission

The Mission of the Department of History, Arts and Libraries is to enrich the quality of life for Michigan residents by providing access to information, preserving and promoting Michigan's heritage, and fostering cultural creativity. The department includes the Mackinac Island State Park Commission, the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, the Michigan Film Office, the Michigan Historical Center and the Library of Michigan.

Handy HAL contacts

Department of History, Arts and Libraries

Dr. William Anderson, Director
702 West Kalamazoo Street
P.O. Box 30738
Lansing, MI 48909-8238
Phone: (517) 241-2236
Fax: (517) 241-2930
Meeting Rooms: (517) 373-4454
Contact us at: www.michigan.gov/hal

Michigan Historical Center

Sandra Clark, Director/State Historian
702 West Kalamazoo Street
P.O. Box 30740
Lansing, MI 48909-8240
Phone: (517) 373-6362
TDD (800) 827-7007
Fax: (517) 241-3647

Michigan Historical Center Foundation

General Information: (517) 373-2565

Michigan Historical Museum

Museum Hotline: (517) 373-3559
Group tour reservations: (517) 373-2353

Office of the State Archaeologist

General Information: (517) 373-6358

State Archives of Michigan

General Information: (517) 373-1408
Reference Desk: (517) 373-1414

Michigan History Magazine:

General Information: (517) 373-3703
Subscription Information
& Orders: (800) 366-3703

State Historic Preservation Office

General Information: (517) 373-1630
Michigan Historic Markers: (517) 335-2725
National Register of
Historic Places: (517) 335-2719

Michigan Council For Arts and Cultural Affairs

Betty Boone, Executive Director
702 West Kalamazoo Street
P.O. Box 30007
Lansing, MI 48909-7507
Phone: (517) 241-4011
Fax: (517) 241-3979
Email: artsinfo@michigan.gov

Michigan Film Office

Janet Lockwood, Director
702 West Kalamazoo Street
P.O. Box 30739
Lansing, MI 48909-8239
Phone: (517) 373-0638
or 800-477-3456
Fax: (517) 241-2930
Email: jlockwood@michigan.gov

Library of Michigan

Christie Pearson Brandau, State Librarian
702 West Kalamazoo Street
P.O. Box 30007
Lansing, MI 48909-7507
Phone: (517) 373-1580
Fax: (517) 373-4480

Library of Michigan Circulation

Public Services Circulation: (517) 373-1360

Library of Michigan Reference:

Public Services Reference: (517) 373-1300
Email: Librarian@michigan.gov
SBPH Lobby: (517) 373-5614
Michigan only (800) 726-7323
TDD Number:

Public Services Reference,
Services for the Blind & Physically
Handicapped (517) 373-1592

Library of Michigan Foundation

702 West Kalamazoo Street
P.O. Box 30159
Lansing, MI 48909-7659
Phone: (517) 373-1297
Fax: (517) 241-9048
Email: lmfoundation@michigan.gov

Library of Michigan State Law Library

G. Mennen Williams State Office
Building, 1st Floor
525 West Ottawa Street, Lansing
Reference Desk: (517) 373-0630
Fax: (517) 373-3915

Mackinac Island State Park Commission

Phil Porter, Acting Director
702 West Kalamazoo Street
P.O. Box 30742
Lansing, MI 48909-8242

P.O. Box 873
Mackinaw City, MI 49701-0873

P.O. Box 370
Mackinac Island, MI 49757-0370

Winter: (517) 373-4296
Summer: (906) 847-3815
Programs: (231) 436-4100
Fax: (517) 373-4210
Email: mackinacparks@michigan.gov

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